

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**No-Cost Training for Energy Industry Positions Now Available**

The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network's Energy Pathway Program (EPP) is searching for highly motivated and qualified individuals, especially veterans, who are ready to invest in a future with the high-wage, high-growth energy industry. The no-cost EPP includes long-term, in-depth training and job placement assistance with area refineries.

Energy and refinery businesses in the Los Angeles Basin employ approximately 5,000 workers and it's anticipated that 25-50% of that workforce will retire in the next five years. Entry-level wages currently range from \$45,760 annually and the current average annual salary for an experienced process technician is \$98,000.

The Energy Pathway Program is provided at no charge to the participant thanks to state and federal funding. "The Network is especially grateful to Congresswoman Laura Richardson who worked hard to secure a portion of the funds for the EPP," said Bryan Rogers, Executive Director of the Network.

"The Network's Center for Working Families is excited to once again partner with the South Bay Center for Counseling, Harbor College and other area training providers to increase training in the energy industry," Rogers said. "We are especially encouraging veterans to apply for this great opportunity: Their training and background are a natural fit for this and other industries."

The program, which runs from January through October 2009, will provide more than 600 hours of community college training in industry-specific courses including introduction to the industry, safety, and operating and trouble shooting industry equipment.

Upon successful completion of the program, participants will have the opportunity and support to apply for full time employment with participating refineries including Exxon-Mobil, ConocoPhillips, Tesoro, and Valero - in addition to the Los Angeles County Sanitation Department.

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Requirements for consideration include:

- Proof of right to work and selective service registration
- At least 18 years of age
- Possess a high school diploma or GED and be able to demonstrate a minimum of a 10<sup>th</sup> grade level in reading, writing, and math
- Possess a valid driver's license and/or transportation
- Available to maintain the EPP schedule, January - October 2009
- Able to fulfill the requisites of refinery work including lifting 50 pounds, climbing to a height of 200 feet and work in confined spaces

**Interested and qualified individuals should call the Center for Working Families at 562.570.4796.** This is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program and auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. To request a reasonable accommodation, please call 562.570.3738 or TTY 562. 570.4629, at least 72 hours prior to event.

#### **Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network**

The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network, administered by the City of Long Beach, serves businesses and job-seekers in the area of Long Beach, Signal Hill, Torrance, Lomita, and San Pedro by providing an array of no-and low –cost resources, tools, services and information designed to build a competitive workforce that supports our region's economic growth. For more information, visit [www.PacificGatewayWorkforce.com](http://www.PacificGatewayWorkforce.com) or call 562.570.WORK, or, Toll Free 800.292.7200